



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

INSIDE  
TRACKS  
STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

The Newsletter of Region One

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## They're Back: Grayling Recovery Project Successful in Rogers Lake

Just three years ago, Rogers Lake supported only overabundant, stunted perch. But thanks to a carefully planned recovery program, it's once again the top arctic grayling lake in northwest Montana.

The perch, a result of an illegal introduction, had decimated the arctic grayling that once thrived in the lake. Biologists poisoned the perch in 1993, then replanted grayling in 1994. In just their third growing season, the grayling have matured and mounted an impressive spawning run into the lake's inlet stream.

"Rogers Lake is once again a good grayling fishery," says Mark Deleray, FWP fisheries biologist. "It's gratifying to see how well these grayling have grown and survived."



**IMPROVED ANGLING opportunities are now available at Rogers Lake after a three-year recovery effort by FWP. Angler Robert Scribner shows one of many grayling he caught and released on a flyfishing outing on Rogers Lake.**

Deleray said that the adult grayling are averaging about 14 inches in length. He added that the lake will serve as a genetic reserve for native Montana grayling from Red Rocks Lake, the source of the eggs used to produce the 140,000 fish for the 1994 Rogers Lake stocking.

Rogers Lake seems ideally suited for arctic grayling. The fish measured less than an inch long when stocked, yet reached maturity a year sooner than biologists had predicted.

Another feature of the cooperative recovery program has included improving the spawning habitat in the inlet stream. Boy Scouts and other volunteers completed that project last year.

"The public has been very supportive of this project conducted under the Hungry Horse mitigation program," Deleray said. "We hope that anglers will help us prevent further illegal fish introductions into the lake."

Westslope cutthroat trout, also planted in the lake in 1994, appear to be thriving as well. Biologists have seen several adult spawners in inlet streams.

Anglers have assisted in the recovery effort, releasing most of the grayling they've caught, allowing grayling

the opportunity to spawn this spring.

After a successful evening fishing trip to the lake this spring, Robert Scribner, speaking for many anglers, remarked, "It's great to see these grayling come back."



**SPAWNING SUCCESS.** Biologist Mark Deleray examines an adult male grayling in the Rogers Lake inlet stream.

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# New Information Flyer Available for State Parks

A new flyer is now available to update visitors on northwest Montana's state parks and fishing access sites. Information is presented in an easy-to-read table outlining availability of boat docks, camping, fees, visitor services, availability of camp

attendants and other items.

Regional Parks Manager Dave Conklin says that the flyer will be updated as conditions change. The flyer serves as a recreation area status report for state sites, including information on temporary construction clo-

sures, seasonal openings, campground status, and water depths at boat landings.

You may pick up the flyer at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office in Kalispell.

## Sample State Parks Flyer

RECREATION AREA STATUS - FWP, REGION 1, NW MONTANA

WEEK OF: 6/17/96

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (406) 752-5501

FAX NO. (406) 257-0349

State Parks	Open	Closed	Boat Ramp	Boat Dock	Camping	Size Limits	#Sites	Fees			Group Camping	Group Day Use	Toilets	Showers	Dump Station	Drinking Water	Garbage Container	On Site Attendant	Phone Number
								Vehicle	Walk-in Bike	Camping									
Reservations Phone (406) 755-2706, M-Th, 1pm to 5pm P=people Veh=vehicles F=flush toilet V=vault toilet ()=handicapped access PP=po																			
Flathead Lake S.P.																			
Big Arm	7/1/96	Constr.	Closed	(60')	All Year	30'	38	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$9.00		50P/15Veh	(F/V)	(X)		X	X	7/1 to 9/4	849-5255
Finley Point	5/1	10/1	Open-3'd	(16 Slips)	5/1 to 9/30	(RV-40')	(16)	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$15.00			(F)		Boat/PP	(X)	X	5/20 to 9/4	887-2715
Weyerfers	All Year		Open	(120')	5/1 to 9/30	30'	30	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$9.00			F/V		Boat/RV	X	X	5/20 to 9/4	837-4196
West Shore	All Year		Open	None	All Year	30'	26	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$8.00			V			X	X	5/20 to 9/4	844-3901
Wild Horse Is.	All Year		None	None	No Camping/Fires/Pets			Donations Accepted											
Yellow Bay	All Year		Open	None	All Year	Tents	4	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$7.00			V				X		
Lake Mary Ronan	3rd Sat May	10/1	Open	(40')	5/17-9/30	35'	27	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$8.00	20P/8Veh		V			X	X	5/20 to 9/4	849-5082
Logan	All Year		Gravel	40'	All Year	40'	44	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$9.00	20P/8Veh		F/V		RV	X	X	5/20 to 9/4	293-7190
Lone Pine	All Year		None	None	No Camping			\$3.00	\$ .50			50P/15Veh	(F)			(X)	X	All Year	755-2706
Thompson Falls	5/1	10/1	Open	None	5/1 to 9/30	40'	17	\$0/3.00	\$ .50	\$5/9.00			V			X			827-3110
Whitefish Lake	7/1	Flooded	Closed	40'	5/1 to 9/30	30'	33	\$3.00	\$ .50	\$9.00			F/V			X	X	5/20 to 9/4	862-3991

### Fishing Access Sites

Ashley Lake	All Year												V						
Bigfork	All Year		Open	40'									(F)						
Ducharme	All Year																		
Flatiron Ridge	7/1	Flooded	Closed	(40')									(V)						
Glen Lake	All Year												V						
Kokanee Bend	All Year																		
Old Steel Bridge	All Year		Open										V						
Pressentine	All Year																		
Smith Lake	7/1	Flooded	Closed	(40')									(V)						
Somers	All Year		Open	(40')									(F)			(X)			
Sophie Lake	All Year	Flooded	Closed		Yes								V			X			
Sportsmans Bndge	All Year		Open-3'd										V						
Swan River	4/1	12/1																	
Teakettle	All Year												(V)						
Tetraut Lake	All Year												V						
Walstad	7/1	Constr.	Closed	(80')									(V)						
Woods Bay	All Year		Open										(V)						



**TEAMWORK.** Happy youngsters show off a rainbow trout and a largemouth bass they caught at the kids' fishing day at McGilvray Lake.

## Fishing Day Draws More Than 500 Kids and Adults

The annual kids' fishing day at McGilvray Lake in June near Bigfork attracted 353 young anglers, accompanied by about 200 adults. Organizers note that the annual event, which celebrates National Fishing Week, has become one of the largest outdoor family gatherings in northwest Montana.

Organizers included the Creston National Fish Hatchery, American Legion Post 86 of Bigfork, the U.S. Forest Service, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Many area businesses donated prizes for the young anglers.

Youngsters caught about 150 rainbow trout, plus a number of perch,

pumpkinseed and bass. The rainbow trout were planted by the Creston National Fish Hatchery prior to the event. Youngsters and parents enjoyed a warm sunny day and even those who did not catch fish enjoyed themselves.

Kids took part in a casting contest and received prizes in a drawing as well as special posters; they also spent time going through educational displays on aquatic bugs and fishing ethics.

The event is designed to introduce kids to fishing and the aquatic environment, and encourage fishing as a family activity.



# Community Efforts Boost Hunter Education Programs



**INSTRUCTOR WAYNE STEVENS** *instructs a youngster in black powder shooting techniques at the spring Hunter Education Field Course near Kalispell. At the black powder station, Stevens and instructor Dale Sommerfield helped each of the 200 students fire muzzle-loaders.*

*What parents are saying about the spring Kalispell area Hunter Education course, taught by lead instructor Dan Atkinson and 30 instructors (excerpts from eight letters received):*

- "I was very pleased with the professionalism displayed..."
- "I couldn't help but marvel at the enthusiasm and firmness the instructors displayed in dealing with such a large group of young people..."
- "Please extend my thanks to the instructors for their time and effort..."
- "...our daughter, Marci, was so excited each night after class that she was up for hours once we were home."
- "The instructors and their assistants treated everyone with dignity and respect and their teaching of hunting ethics was superior...there is no doubt in our minds that it certainly is an extremely positive and well executed program."
- "Recently, my daughter, Dakota, completed the course, and because I attended every class along with her, I am qualified to say that the entire event was beyond my expectations...my heartfelt thanks for this program and the wonderful folks who have given so generously of their time and talents."
- "I had no idea this class would cover so many different aspects of hunting and I think anyone who lives in Montana would do well to know this information. Thanks again, and I hope you know what super people you have as instructors!"

The Kalispell and Bigfork Hunter Education programs have benefited greatly this year from grass roots community support.

A fundraising effort by the Kalispell area instructors focused on donations of materials through Valley Recycling of Kalispell. Dollars generated from that effort plus other community contributions allowed instructors to purchase 10 black powder rifles for use in the hunter education field course. Kalispell lead instructor Dan Atkinson and lead assistant instructor April Kelly led the fundraising effort.

In Bigfork, lead instructor Jon Cuthbertson and the Bigfork area instructors conducted a fundraising drive to purchase rifles for the field course. More than 30 businesses and individuals responded. Dollars and firearm donations resulting from the effort will be used in the new field course in the Bigfork area.

It's fitting that community dollars are building hunter education programs around northwest Montana. The more than 200 instructors are volunteers, and they work thousands of hours to help ensure a future for safe and ethical hunting. We all owe them a big thanks! 🐾

*What adult students are saying about the Kalispell Bowhunter Education Courses (excerpts from student evaluations, May course taught by Matt Riley and Dave Yeats):*

- "Instructors are top-notch—they know their sport, ethics, and are willing to pass it on..."
- "The instructors are a credit to bowhunting—they speak from the heart."
- "...instructors are an asset to bowhunting. I am really looking forward to repeating the class with my sons when they're old enough...great job, well done!"
- "The course was time well spent. The instructors were fantastic, well prepared, and extremely knowledgeable and experienced. Thanks so much!"
- "By the end of the first class I was hooked...thank you so much for an enjoyable class and for sharing your love and knowledge of bowhunting with me."
- "Thanks so much for giving back to a sport which has given so much to you. I had a great time and am confident in my upcoming equipment selection, practicing, scouting, and applying newly gained skills and ethics."



# New Warden Will Focus on Bull Trout Conservation

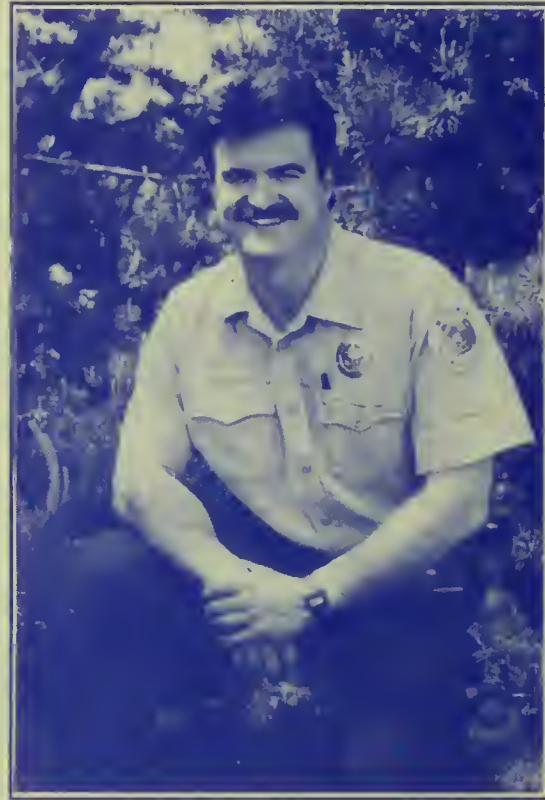
As part of the Governor's bull trout restoration effort, a new warden will focus on bull trout conservation in northwest Montana.

Steve Jones, who has extensive education and experience in natural resource management, began the job in March. His position is currently funded through the Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Power Planning Council's fish and wildlife program.

Jones will focus on three areas related to bull trout: angler education, information, and enforcement. One of the major projects during this first summer will be a fish identification survey which will determine anglers' ability to identify bull trout and other fish.

"We're trying to determine how well people can differentiate bull trout from other northwest Montana fish," says Jones. "That will help tell us what we need to do in the areas of education and enforcement." Jones says that part of the problem with bull trout conservation is that some an-

glers can't distinguish bull trout from similar species like brook trout and lake trout.



***FWP WARDEN Steve Jones plans to do good things for bull trout in northwest Montana.***

Jones will also emphasize boat patrols on known bull trout waters, personal contacts with anglers, and check stations. In addition, he will work with landowners, school groups, civic groups and others on bull trout education.

Steve and his wife, Kristin, have three children: Justin (7), Steven (2), and Cody (1). They are building a home in Lakeside.

Says Jones, who is an avid sportsman: "I'm excited about the job and piloting the program from its infancy in a setting that's second to none. The outdoor recreation opportunities and quality of life here are phenomenal."



For more information on Fish, Wildlife & Parks issues, listen to:

**"Northwest Outdoors,"**

FWP's weekly radio show, Thursdays at 8:40 a.m. on KGEZ, 600 on your AM dial.

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